



COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL Agenda Highlights for April 13, 2009

For More Information:

John Ivanic, Communications Director
(614) 645-6798

BANDING TOGETHER FOR THE BLUE JACKETS: City Council and Mayor Michael B. Coleman are planning to honor the Columbus Blue Jackets in Council Chambers this evening in recognition of their first playoff appearance. Councilmember [A. Troy Miller](#) is sponsoring *resolution 0037X-2009* to congratulate the franchise for making the post-season and commending the players for their teamwork on the ice and commitment to making the Columbus community a better place to live through their many charity programs. Representatives of the organization will be on hand to accept the resolution.

WORKING TO PREVENT BASEMENT BACKUPS: The Department of Public Utilities is constantly working to prevent the backup of sanitary sewer systems into Columbus homes. *Ordinance 0374-2009*, sponsored by Utilities committee chair [Eileen Y. Paley](#), will spend \$1,250,160 and allow the department to find ways to improve sewer lines that connect from main lines to homes. The DPU has determined that leakage into the sewer during rain events allows excess water into the public sanitary system causing water backup and overflow in homes. If the department determines that this project is cost effective, then the DPU will evaluate other opportunities to expand the program to other areas of the city that experience similar problems.

PROMOTING LITERACY: Working to restore reading as the center of American culture, the Greater Columbus Arts Council will host its first-ever *Big Read* event on *Wednesday, April 22, 2009 at 12:00 p.m. on the west lawn of the Ohio Statehouse*. To help promote the importance of literacy in Columbus, Recreation & Parks Committee Chair [Priscilla R. Tyson](#) is sponsoring *resolution 0035X-2009* to commemorate the event. Tyson will be joined by Councilmember Andrew J. Ginther in attending the *Big Read* and providing opening remarks. For more information about the *Big Read* in Columbus, including an online events calendar, visit www.ColumbusArts.com.

GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE: April is *Donate Life Month* in Columbus and Health, Housing & Human Services Committee Chair [Charleta B. Tavares](#) is sponsoring *resolution 0034X-2009* to help raise awareness about the need for organ donors in Central Ohio. At any given time, over 500 people in the city of Columbus are waiting for an organ transplant, and many more await life-enhancing tissue transplants. In 2008, 99 Central Ohioans shared the gift of life at the time of their death and through their donation 369 individuals received a second chance through organ transplantation. Central Ohioans can declare their wish to become a donor when renewing their driver license or state ID at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, or by registering on-line at www.lifelineofohio.org.

CRAIG HONORS STEFANIE'S CHAMPIONS: President Pro Tem [Hearcel F. Craig](#) will recognize the recipients of the *Stefanie Spielman Champion Awards* with City Council Certificates of Honor and Recognition. The awardees will be presented with the Champion Awards at the *Greater Columbus Convention Center's grand ballroom on Wednesday, April 15, 2009 from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m.* Now entering its tenth year, *Stefanie's Champions* annually honors those whose dedication and strength were powerful influences in the lives of cancer survivors.

OUTDOOR WARNING SIRENS: When severe weather strikes, early warning sirens located throughout Columbus are equipped to give residents the advanced notice they need in seeking shelter. Public Safety Committee Chair [Andrew J. Ginther](#) is forwarding *ordinance 0529-2009* to appropriate \$505,102 for Columbus' proportionate share of the operating and administrative costs of the Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security program (FCEMHS), which is responsible for managing the outdoor warning siren system. The agency's operational activities also include planning for disaster recovery and public education and exercises. The city's participation with FCEMHS is in accordance with state law. All activities of the agency are supported by local government funds and some federal grants. For more information, visit <http://www.franklincountyohio.gov/emahs>.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT HELPING OPEN HUNTINGTON PARK: Council President [Michael C. Mentel](#) will help celebrate the opening of Huntington Park, the new home of the Cleveland Indians' Triple-A affiliate Columbus Clippers, on Saturday, April 18, 2009. The festivities will begin with a parade on Nationwide Boulevard at 1:30 p.m. President Mentel also will lend a hand for a special ceremony honoring Harold Cooper, whom many consider to be the "Father of Columbus Baseball." The first pitch at Huntington Park is scheduled for 4:05 p.m. later that day.